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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH 2018 Export prices increased approximately 1.0 percent due to concerns over the continued strengthening of the Thai baht. In addition, foreign buyers are purchasing Thai parboiled rice for deliveries to Nigeria within June 2012 to avoid a higher applied import tariff rate as the shipments of Indian parboiled rice are facing logistical difficulties.

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Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Feb. 20, 2012

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,050	-	1,060	-	1,100	1,010	-	1,055	1,049
WR 100 B	550	-	550	-	550	540	580	554	553
PB 100%	560	-	560	-	555	560	550	557	553
PB 5%	555	-	555	-	550	550	545	551	547
WR 5%	530	-	530	-	535	525	570	538	537
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	530	523	-	527	523
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	525	-	-	-	515	520	-	520	513
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 30.6 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices increased approximately 1.0 percent from the previous week as the strengthening Thai baht remains a concern for exporters. The Thai baht strengthened to 30.5 baht/\$ this week, as compared to 30.7 baht/\$ in the previous week. In addition, foreign buyers are purchasing Thai parboiled rice for deliveries to Nigeria within June 2012 to avoid a higher applied import tariff rate (53% vis-à-vis the current rate of 33%) which will be effective in July 2012, as the shipments of Indian parboiled rice contracts are reportedly slow due to port congestion. Meanwhile, the government tender on February 6-8, 2012 for 38,495 tons of broken rice from the current MY2011/12 main-crop Paddy Pledging Program will likely be cancelled as the bidding offers were 10-13 percent below market prices. However, exporters anticipate that the Government will likely conduct an additional tender in March 2012 for the old-crop intervention stocks, of which 2 million tons remain.

Presently, the Government is holding old-crop intervention stocks of around 2.0 million tons.

Meanwhile, the current Paddy Pledging Program has pledged a total of 6.5 million tons of paddy (4.3

million tons milled equivalent) from October 7, 2011 – February 19, 2012 (Table 2). This accounts for 30.1 percent of the expected total MY2011/12 main-crop production of 21-22 million tons of paddy (14.5 million tons milled equivalent). The Government expects the program will absorb only 7.0 million tons of paddy (4.6 million tons milled equivalent) when it finalizes on February 29, 2012, far below its initial target of 10.0 million tons of paddy. However, the Government will likely absorb an additional 5-6 million tons of paddy (4.0 million tons milled equivalent) from off-season crop Paddy Pledging Program during March 1 – June 30, 2012.

Table 2. MY2011/12 Main-Crop Paddy Pledging Program							
Unit: Metric Ton							
Region	Number of Farmer	Amount of Paddy					
		Fragrant Rice			White Rice	Glutinous Rice	Total
		Homali	Provincial	Pathumthani			
North	321,762	310,551	267,334	2,790	1,419,317	221,325	2,221,317
Northeast	743,010	2,638,401	-	84	148,776	181,019	2,968,280
Central	152,565	-	65,392	12,326	1,349,388	-	1,327,106
South	1,888	-	-	-	9,004	-	9,004
Total	1,219,225	2,948,952	332,726	15,200	2,826,485	402,344	6,525,707
Note: As of October 7, 2011 - February 19, 2012							
Source: Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce							

Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for February 13-19, 2012 totaled 118,258 tons, up 9,613 tons from the previous week, and up 25,126 tons from the four-week moving average of 93,132 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1 – February 19, 2012 totaled 588,450 tons, down 55.5 percent from 1,323,374 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during January 1 – February 14, 2012 amounted to 638,489 tons, down 54.4 percent from 1,400,839 tons in the previous year.

Table 3: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)					
WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK.AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Dec 11	56,254	73,840	8,088	6,113	32.3
Dec 18	67,397	70,889	8,155	6,303	29.4
Dec 25	71,227	70,488	8,233	6,475	27.1
Dec 31	57,810	64,672	8,291	6,649	24.7
Jan 1, 2012	1,100	-	1	2	-40.5
Jan 8	61,310	-	62	172	-63.6
Jan 15	104,079	-	166	381	-56.3
Jan 22	49,433	-	216	559	-61.4
Jan 29	71,723	71,636	288	723	-60.2
Feb 5	73,902	74,784	352	919	-61.7
Feb 12	108,645	75,926	470	1,141	-58.8
Feb 19	118,258	96,132	588	1,323	-55.5

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/REK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales			
Movement (MT)	Jan 30 - Feb 3 (Revised)	Feb 6-10 (Revised)	Feb 13-17 (Preliminary)
Weekly sales	74,741	120,343	91,262
4 week sum	416,069	325,396	343,313
4 week mov. avg.	104,017	81,349	85,828
Year-to-date sales	489,684	610,027	701,289

End of report